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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## South Dakota Guard volunteers recognized for support

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Volunteers who contributed their time to support the service members and families of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard were recognized during an awards banquet on Sept. 13 in Mitchell, S.D.

The South Dakota National Guard Family Program office annually recognizes a military family, family program volunteer and military member for their volunteer efforts through the Family Program to service members, their families and units.

“These volunteers give hours and hours of their time to make the lives of service members and their families better,” said Lynn Wright, family readiness assistant for the Family Program. “It’s our way of saying thank you.”

Volunteers organize and host meetings, write newsletters, provide training and answer questions for family members. Wright says this is done to help keep families informed and educated about the services available to them.

“The volunteers’ efforts are so important because they build the family readiness groups within units, which are a support network for families,” said Wright. “This also helps to keep a unit commander informed on family issues.”

Award recipients are nominated by individual Guard units, its service members, families or other volunteers. To nominate a volunteer for outstanding support, please contact the Family Program office at (605) 737-6728.

Award recipients for 2007:

### **Family Program Military Family of the Year**

Army: David and Barb Huiten Family, Salem, S.D., Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery

Air: Craig and Rachel VanderZee Family, Sioux Falls, S.D., 114th Fighter Wing

**Family Program Volunteer of the Year**

Army: Shari Lunders, Salem, S.D., Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery

Air: Sharon Warren, Sioux Falls, S.D., 114th Fighter Wing

**Family Program Military Member of the Year**

Army: Priscilla Harkin, Sioux Falls, S.D., 1742nd Transportation Company

Air: Connie Skinner, Sioux Falls, S.D., 114th Fighter Wing

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**, please contact Lynn Wright at (605) 381-5761, or Maj. Orson Ward at (605) 737-6721, cell (605) 431-8753.